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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Soviet-Occupied Europe/USSR

SUBJECT The Order of Battle of Soviet Ground Forces in Europe and the USSR and the German Volkspolizei

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## REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

In general, no changes were discernible in the organization and quartering of units in East Germany. The personnel exchange program, that terminated in the fall of 1952, increased the personnel strength by about 15,000 additional troops, but this is not considered significant. In previous years, similar surpluses have gradually been balanced by the repatriation of discharges. The departure of trained personnel, which was about one fifth of the total manpower of the GOFG in East Germany, considerably affected the present combat readiness of the Soviet units. This weakness, however, will to some extent be eliminated by intensive garrison training during the winter months of 1952/1953. The units, therefore, can again be considered ready for combat after the spring of 1953.

GERMANYOrder of Battle.

1. Reports received during the period from 1 December 1952 to 1 January 1953 revealed no changes in the general OB in East Germany.
2. The following units in East Germany, [REDACTED] permanent location and dates of observation [REDACTED]

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a. GHQ Units of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany (GOFG).

Unit	Location	Date
An Engr Regt	BERNBURG	19 November
30th Gds Gun Arty Brig	POTSDAM	2 November
4th AT Arty Brig (US)	PRORA Area	2 November
3d Gds AT Arty Brig	ROSTOCK	8 November

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STATE	X	ARMY #	X	NAVY	X	AIR #	X	FBI	AEC					

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b. Eighth Guards Army.

65th Gds Mecz Regt

WEIMAR

12 October

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174th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt

WEISSENFELS

8 July

c. Third Shock Army.

399th (?) RL Regt

STENDAL

5 December

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Hq 19th Gds Mecz Div

MAGDEBURG (?) 19 November

62d Gds Mecz Regt

MAGDEBURG

26 October

63d Gds Mecz Regt

MAGDEBURG

11 October

10th Gds RL Regt

SCHWERIN

3 December

288th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt

WISMAR

17 September

58th Mecz Regt

PERLEBERG

25 November

d. First Guards Mechanized Army.

20th Gds Mecz Regt

WURZEN

17 September

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68th Gds Tank Bn

WURZEN

24 August

A Motor Trans Bn of the  
8th Gds Mecz Div

LEIPZIG-TAUCHA 29 October

7th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt

DRESDEN

17 September

A Tank Tng Bn of the 11th  
Gds Tank Div

KOENIGSBRUECK(?) 5 September

e. Second Guards Mechanized Army.

9th Sig Regt

RAVENSBRUECK

5 September

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31st AAA Div

SCHOENWALDE

9 December

Hq 1st Mecz Div

DOEBERITZ

25 November

19th Mecz Regt

DOEBERITZ

21 November

3d Tank Bn of the  
37th Mecz Regt

DOEBERITZ

13 September

283d (?) Gds How Arty Regt

DOEBERITZ

28 November

f. Third Guards Mechanized Army.

Army Hq

FORST ZINNA

13 September

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91st Gds RL Regt

LUCKENWAIDE

21 November

91st Tank Regt

LUEBBEN

13 November

616 Mort Regt

LUEBBEN

17 November

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g. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army.

Hq 6th Gds Mecz Div	BERNAU	9 November	25X1
16th Gds Mecz Regt	BAD FREIEN- WALDE	October	
17th Gds Mecz Regt	EBERSWALDE	October	
35th Gds Mecz Regt.	BERNAU	2 December	
93d Tank Regt	BAD FREIENWALDE	October	
82d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt.	EBERSWALDE	October	
676th How Arty Regt	BERNAU	2 December	
120th (?) AAA Regt	BERNAU	2 December	
95th Mtrcl Bn	BAD FREIENWALDE	27 September	
52d Gds RL Bn	BERNAU	2 December	
22d Gds Engr Bn	BERNAU	2 December	
33d Gds Sig Bn	BERNAU	2 December	
34th Tank Eng Bn	BERNAU	2 December	
A Motor Trans Bn of the 6th Gds Mecz Div	BERNAU	2 December	
57th Gds Tank Regt	FRANKFURT/ Oder	25 September	
84th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt	FRANKFURT/ Oder	19 September	
A Gds How Arty Regt of the 7th Gds Mecz Div	FRANKFURT/ Oder	22 September	
468th Gds Mort Regt	BEESKOW	27 September	
288th Gds AAA Regt	FRANKFURT/ Oder	September	
Hq 25th Tank Div	ORANIENBURG	October	
111th Tank Regt	ORANIENBURG	2 December	
162d Tank Regt	ORANIENBURG	2 December	
53d Mtrcl Bn	ORANIENBURG	2 December	
A Tank Tng Bn of the 25th Tank Div	ORANIENBURG	2 December	
A Motor Trans Bn of the 25th Tank Div	ORANIENBURG	2 December	
Hq 10th Gds Tank Div	KRAMPNITZ	24 November	
63d Gds Tank Regt	BRANDENBURG	October	

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Change of Quarters.

3. The quarters near Peckfitz, west of Gardelegen, which have been under construction since about the summer of 1952, were apparently occupied by components of the 598th Mtz Rifle Regt of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div from Gardelegen at the beginning of December. It is expected that all elements of the regiment will be transferred to Peckfitz upon completion of installations. No other changes in the quartering of Soviet units became known.

Training.

4. The training of recruits who arrived in the fall of 1952 had started about mid-November and was continued in December. It was mostly conducted inside the billeting area or in some cases in the immediate vicinity of the post. Detailed information on the course of training was only sporadically obtained as intensified security measures introduced in the fall rendered observation of billeting areas and quarters more difficult. However, on the basis of individual reports received, it can be concluded that both the methods and intensity of basic training remained the same as in the winter of 1951/1952. There are no indications that new type weapons have been issued.

Personnel.

5. The last eastbound shipment of discharges passed through the Kuestrin border crossing station on 20 November 1952. This shipment completed the personnel exchange program which started in mid-September 1952.

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65 trains with recruits arrived, 7 other trains with recruits are rather definitely believed to have arrived, 57 trains with discharges were dispatched to the East and 2 trains with discharges are rather definitely believed to have been dispatched to the East. On the assumption that each train carried 1,200 men, it is concluded that about 86,000 new recruits arrived and about 71,000 trained soldiers were discharged home. The surplus of about 15,000 soldiers will probably be absorbed through reassignments and detachments to and discharges for sickness from existing units, rather than by activation of new units. The individual routes of the shuttle trains so far as they are known were analyzed.<sup>1</sup>

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Transportation.

6. The traffic situation in December 1952 was seriously hampered by bad weather and a shortage of rolling stock, primarily for coal shipments. As the railroad administration was evidently unable to cope with the situation, it was subject to severe criticism by the East German press.
7. Coal stocks, predominantly pit coal stocks, decreased further. This caused local difficulties in the coal supply of locomotives in some instances. There were only 7.6 days' requirements of coal stocks on 8 December which is far below the prescribed winter stock of coal of 14 to 16 days' requirements.
8. Traffic through stations on the Oder-Neisse line, and from and to Czechoslovakia continued at a normal rate, except for minor deviations. Special transportation operations under way included:
  - a. Return from the USSR of former German freight cars.
  - b. The grain import program and the beginning of a large sugar export program.
  - c. Arrival in Stendal and Fuerstenwalde of 43 flatcars with rocket launchers, probably of type M-31, from the USSR.

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## 9. Railroad construction projects.

Railroad construction projects under way were continued. Shortage of material slowed down construction work on some of the projects. Construction projects completed included:

- a. The Oder bridge at Frankfurt/Oder was opened for double-track operation on 8 December 1952, thus eliminating the last bottleneck on the Brest Litovsk-Warsaw-Frankfurt/Oder-Berlin double-track line, which is the most important Soviet supply line.
  - b. The Pirna-Bad Schandau section of the important Dresden-Prague transit line to Czechoslovakia was opened for double-track operation on 18 December.
  - c. At the beginning of December, the Dobrilugk-Kirchhain-Finsterwalde double-track section, another section of the important Guben-Cottbus-Falkenberg line was completed.
10. a. On 1 December 1952, a Zentrale Wagenverwaltung (central rolling stock administration) (ZWV) was established in the East German railroads. The following sections were subordinate to this administration: Wageninspektionen (rolling stock inspection agencies) and the Wagenbetriebsstellen (rolling stock control agencies) at the regional railroad district headquarters (RBDs); the Wagenabnahmestellen (rolling stock testing stations) at the railroad repair shops (RAWs); and the Wagengrenzstellen (transit check points) at each border-crossing station. The ZWV which is subordinate directly to the Director General Railroads, Berlin, controls all offices in charge of procurement, replenishment, administration and distribution of rolling stock. It is undetermined whether this organizational measure alone will help to remove the shortage of rolling stock which became evident during the seasonal shipments of the last months.
- b. An Oberste Bauleitung fuer Elektrifizierung (construction headquarters for electrification) (OBE) responsible for the re-electrification of railroad lines in central Germany was established on 12 December 1952. It is planned to recondition 1,000 kilometers of railroad line, mostly in the Halle regional railroad district, so that it can be used by electrified trains. The power plant at Muldenstein will also be reconditioned. The electric equipment previously dismantled by the Soviet had to be bought back for this purpose. Some of the material has already been returned from the USSR.
  - c. A Soviet order transmitted to the Erfurt regional railroad headquarters on 29 December 1952 said that 2,000 fittings for converted boxcars were to be procured by the end of January 1953 and were to be available for emergencies. Corresponding orders are believed to have also been issued to the other regional railroad headquarters, but no figures are available yet.
  - d. Unconfirmed information revealed that the production of freight cars with adjustable gauge, which was reported previously, was started in the railroad car factories in Niesky and Dessau. The large number of new 80 to 90-ton RRYm type cars for tank shipments, produced in 1952, were allegedly not provided with the adjustable gauge device.

Supply.

11. The volume of incoming military supply goods from the USSR to East Germany heavily decreased in November 1952 and, so far as could be observed, in December 1952, and was far below the monthly average of 1,000 cars. The ammunition shipments were lower than during the preceding months and

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markedly lower than during the last months of 1951. A rough estimate based on previous observations indicates that a monthly ammunition supply of 50 to 70 cars from the USSR would be sufficient to replace expended supplies. This could mean that an ammunition supply operation in East Germany which was in progress for several years was completed in about late August 1952. It is believed that the ammunition stored in East Germany and kept with the troops is adequate for 12 to 15 rounds of fire. So far as could be learned, the intrazonal supply traffic also decreased in November and December 1952.

#### German Volkspolizei.

#### 12. Order of Battle.

The OB situation as reported in November 1952 was largely confirmed in December. Some of the buildings of the new barracks installations were completed in the area of Armeegruppe Nord and quarters those units of the divisions in Prenzlau, Eggesin and Prora which had not been transferred to winter quarters. Changes observed at winter quarters included:

- a. The 1st Mecz Regt of the Mecz Div Eggesin was transferred to the Grenadier Kaserne on Werder Strasse, Schwerin, instead of to Schwerin-Sternbuchholz.
- b. The engineer battalion of the Division Prenzlau was transferred to Fuenf-eichen near Neubrandenburg, instead of to Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken.
- c. The occupation of the castle and the Weisse Stadt settlement in Oranienburg was increased to 1,200 KVP personnel. Some of these troops probably came from the area of Armeegruppe Nord, while others came from Saxony. It is still unclear which units were involved. The former Infanterie Kaserne on Knochenhauer Strasse in Meiningen was handed over to Soviet troops. The elements of KVPD 2735 which had previously been quartered in this installation probably moved to Ohrdruf or Zella-Mehlis. There are increased indications that army groups are being formed in Dresden, as well as Potsdam, Brandenburg or Dessau, and Erfurt.

#### 13. Propaganda and Recruiting.

The campaign for the recruiting of volunteers is controlled by the Ministry of National Forces which is concealed under cover of the Ministry of the Interior. This headquarters controls Zentrale Werbekommissionen (central recruiting commissions) in the Verwaltungsbezirke (administrative districts) which, in turn, control Werbekommissionen in the Kreise (counties). There are special recruiting commissions in all major enterprises. These special commissions work under the direction of the Kreise. This recruiting organization which is patterned after the administrative structure of East Germany can be converted into an official recruiting and replacement organization at any moment. These agencies have been engaged in the registration of all personnel subject to the draft since the summer of 1952. Persons fit for military service of the 1932 and 1933 classes were recruited for KVP, those of the 1926 through 1931 and 1934 classes were recruited for border police and those of the 1907 through 1925 classes, for the HVDVP. Trained specialists, particularly former regular officers and NCOs, are recruited for the KVP regardless of their age. It is estimated that about 170,000 persons of the 1932 and 1933 classes are still available for active service. The transfer of personnel from the HVDVP into the KVP continues along with the recruiting of volunteers. In late October 1952, KVPD 2425 Erfurt, which is a cadre division, was composed of about 800 trained KVP, about 700 newly recruited volunteers and about 1,000 VPs who were transferred from the HVDVP.

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14. Discharges.

Several deserters stated that it had been decreed that all KVP whose three-year term of service had expired in the fall of 1952 would be discharged. It remains to be seen whether and to what extent discharges will actually be executed. As all efforts are being made to establish the national forces rapidly, it is doubted that it should be possible to decrease the trained personnel which constitutes about 50 percent of the entire strength.

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17. Training.

Basic training of the recruits who arrived in the fall of 1952 started in mid-November and was conducted primarily in the billeting areas.

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